

Appl. No. 10/665,539  
Amendment dated January 30, 2006  
Response to Office Action of September 30, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hand shield adapted for use with a hockey stick, comprising:

a hockey stick;

a flexible shield portion having a convex outer surface, a substantially concave inner surface configured to shield all or part of a hand, and a first an opening configured to accommodate a portion of said a hockey stick that may be passed therethrough; and

an interior grip portion comprising a proximal end portion connected to said shield portion, said interior grip portion and extending away from said shield portion and configured so as to slidably embrace said hockey stick and adapted for gripping by all or part of a hand.

wherein said interior grip portion comprises a distal end portion which defines a second opening, and said hand shield is configured such that said hockey stick may be passed through each of said first and second openings.

Claim 2 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said interior grip portion extends away from the perimeter of said first opening.

Claim 3 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said interior grip portion comprises a plurality of generally parallel flexible tabs.

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Claim 4 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first opening is generally rectangular.

Claim 5 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first opening is configured so as to accommodate multiple cross-sectional configurations of said hockey stick.

Claim 6 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 5 wherein said configurations are a rectangular cross-section, a polygonal cross-section, a circular cross-section and an oval cross-section.

Claim 7 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 adapted for use with a hockey stick having a fixed butt end, wherein the perimeter of said first opening is configured such that said hockey stick may be passed through said opening.

Claim 8 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein the perimeter of said first opening is flexible.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 9 wherein said hockey stick comprises a shaft and a blade.